

In re Appln. of MONTAGNINO, et al **BEST AVAILABLE COPY**
Application No. 10/008,346

In The Specification

Please replace the text beginning at page 19, line 22 to page 21, line 11 with the following paragraphs:

As one example, the fiber-filled, polyester thermosetting polymer material may be BMC 300 Granite GRANITE polymer material provided by Bulk Molding Compounds, Inc. at 1600 Powis Court, West Chicago, Illinois 60185. The BMC 300 Granite GRANITE polymer material is a polyester molding material that includes, inter alia, resin, catalysts, powdered mineral filler, reinforcing fiber (chopped strand), pigment, and lubricants. A variety of pigments may be provided, which provides flexibility in surface decoration. BMC 300 Granite GRANITE polymer material has a flexural strength of 10 to 23 thousand pounds per square inch, and a flexural modulus (modulus of elasticity) of 1.7 to 1.9 million pounds per square inch. The flexural strength, provided in part by the fibers in the material, is sufficient to permit manufacture of the load-receiving platform 22 with narrow and thick portions, for example, the receptacles 24 and adjacent thicker portions of the load-receiving platform 22. Because the fiber-filled, polyester thermosetting polymer material is flexurally strong, the thinned portions, and the transitions between the thinned portions and the thicker portions, do not significantly deflect when a person is standing on the load-receiving platform 22. An additional benefit of the BMC 300 Granite GRANITE polymer material is that it does not support a flame with a 5B rating at only 0.07 inches in thickness. Other fiber-filled, polyester thermosetting polymer materials may be used, such as are supplied by Industrial Dielectrics, Inc. of China.

The mold shrinkage rate for BMC 300 Granite GRANITE polymer material is only 0.001 to 0.003 inches per inch. This low shrinkage rate permits the varied thickness load-receiving platform 22 to be molded without perceptible color distortion, surface sinks, or visual level changes. Thus, the pattern provided by the pigments in the material is maintained over the surface of the load-receiving platform 22, and the body weigh scale 20 maintains its shape after molding, providing an aesthetically-pleasing body weigh scale 20. In addition, the molding does not produce significant stresses in the final product, which avoids later warpage.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 6, with the following:

With D, W, T, and L defined as above, and E being the modulus of elasticity for the load-receiving platform. Using the BMC 300 GRANITE polymer material, with a modulus of elasticity of 1.8 million psi, and assuming a 10 inch square weight, the thickness T for a scale that is to handle 330 pounds can be determined by solving for T: